



**U.S. Forest Service
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
30 S Chiricahua Drive
Springerville, AZ 85938**

Web: www.fs.usda.gov/asnf

Twitter: @A_SNFs

www.facebook.com/apachesitgreavesnfs

News Release

Media Contact:

Steve Johnson

928-333-6280

stevenmjohnson02@fs.fed.us



Apache-Sitgreaves provides Arizona State Capitol Christmas Tree

Springerville, AZ –November 22, 2016; — The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests were recently honored to handpick a big blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) for this year's Arizona State Capitol Christmas Tree. It is the first time that the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests has provided the Arizona State Capitol Christmas Tree.

Last week, on a crisp autumn morning on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, thirty-four men from the Arizona State Forestry crew came together to harvest a magnificent, pre-selected blue spruce. The twenty-four foot tree was then hoisted onto an awaiting trailer for its ride to the Arizona State Capitol to be enjoyed by the masses, not only for its beautiful shape, color and size, but for the natural wonder that living green trees bring to the holiday season.

The blue spruce was cut on November 17 in the Greens Peak area of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests and was delivered to the State Capitol on November 18, thus taking its place in Arizona history. Decoration of the big blue spruce has already started in preparation for the tree lighting ceremony on November 28 at 9:30 a.m., where Arizona Governor Doug Ducey will flip the switch to kick-off the holiday season. A Christmas choir will perform and state legislators among other dignitaries will be in attendance. The Arizona State Capitol Christmas Tree will be on display in the lobby of the Executive Tower at 1700 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

In 2009 the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests had the honor of providing the "The People's Tree" for the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. It was the first and only time that any forest in Arizona had been selected to provide such a tree.

For questions please contact the public affairs office at (928) 333-6280. More information can be found on our website at www.fs.usda.gov/asnf and we invite you to join the conversation on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/apachesitgreavesnfs> and follow us on Twitter at https://twitter.com/A_SNFs.

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